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The reply brief filed 3/30/09 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Response to applicant's remarks of Reply Brief: applicant argues producing the "seamless boundary" , by drying the membrane as single thicker layer (see page 2, first paragraph); however, claim y is directed to drying individual layers, e.g . forming the first layer... and drying...; which does not produce a seam less boundary, as discussed in the record, because both first and second layers **ARE NOT** in a wet state.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ana M. Fortuna whose telephone number is (571) 272-1141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on (571) 272-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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